<u>IN THE CLAIMS</u>:

The following is a complete listing of the claims in this application, reflects all changes currently being made to the claims, and replaces all earlier versions and all earlier listings of the claims.

1. (Currently amended) An information processing apparatus comprising:

communication control means for ~~connecting to an external device so as to allow communication~~ receiving a read command from an external device, the read command specifying a memory address where data to be read out are stored; and

memory means for storing information about a device mountable on said information processing apparatus in a memory area ~~that is accessible by the external device via said communication control means~~, from which the external device can read out data by using the read command,

wherein the device mountable on said information processing apparatus includes an attachable part through which ~~the~~ that device is attached to said information processing apparatus, and a function assist part for assisting a function of said information processing apparatus.

2. (Currently amended) The apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising transmission means for transmitting information in the memory area in accordance with ~~a request~~ the read command from the external device ~~via said communication control means~~.

-2-

3. (Original) The apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said communication control means comprises a communication control bus complying with an IEEE-1394 standard.

4. (Original) The apparatus according to Claim 3, wherein the memory area is set in a configuration ROM defined by the IEEE-1394 standard.

5. (Currently amended) The apparatus according to Claim 4, wherein position information unique to an electronic device is written in a node dependent ~~info~~ information directory of the configuration ROM.

6. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to Claim 4, wherein the memory area is specified based upon information held in an Instance Directory of the configuration ROM.

7. (Currently amended) The apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said memory means stores, in the memory area, information indicative of ~~the~~ a device that is mountable on said information processing apparatus but is not mounted on said information processing apparatus and a device that is mountable on said information processing apparatus and has already been mounted on said information processing apparatus.

8. (Currently amended) An information processing apparatus comprising:

- 3 -

communication control means for ~~connecting to an external device so as to allow communication~~ sending a read command to an external device, the read command specifying a memory address where data to be read out are stored;

acquisition means for ~~accessing a memory area of the external device via said communication control means and~~ acquiring information about a device that is mountable on the external device from a memory area of the external device, by using the read command; and

display control means for controlling a display based upon the information acquired by said acquisition means,

wherein the device that is mountable on the external device includes an attachable part through which ~~the~~ that device is attached to the external device, and a function assist part for assisting a function of the external ~~apparatus~~ device.

9. (Original) The apparatus according to Claim 8, wherein said communication control means comprises a communication control bus complying with an IEEE-1394 standard.

10. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to Claim 9, wherein said acquisition means accesses an Instance Directory stored in a configuration ROM defined by the IEEE-1394 standard to acquire information about the device that is mountable on the external device.

11. (Currently amended) The apparatus according to Claim 8, wherein

- 4 -

said acquisition means acquires information indicative of ~~the~~ a device that is mountable on the external device <u>but is not mounted on the external device</u> and ~~indicative of whether a device~~ <u>a device that is mountable on the external device and</u> has already been mounted on the external device, and

said display control means <u>identifiably</u> displays the device that is mountable on the external device <u>but is not mounted on the external device and the device that is mountable on the external device and has already been mounted on the external device based on the information acquired by said acquisition means,</u> ~~and identifiably displays a device that has already been mounted on the external device~~.

Claims 12-17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently amended) A method of controlling an information processing apparatus<u>,</u> ~~that includes communication control means for connecting an external device so as to allow communication, and holding means for holding information about a device mountable on the information processing apparatus in a memory area that is accessible by the external device via the communication control means, said method~~ comprising:

<u>a storage step, of storing information about a device mountable on the information processing apparatus in a memory area that is accessible by an external device by using a read command that specifies a memory address where data to be read out is stored;</u>

<u>a communication control step, of receiving a read command from the</u>

- 5 -

external device; and

a transmission step, of transmitting the information about the device mountable on the information processing apparatus, held in the memory area, ~~via the communication control means~~ in accordance with ~~a request~~ the read command from the external device ~~via the communication control means~~,

wherein the device mountable on the information processing apparatus includes an attachable part through which the device is attached to the information processing apparatus, and a function assist part for assisting a function of the information processing apparatus.

19. (Currently amended) A method of controlling an information processing apparatus ~~that includes communication control means for connecting an external device so as to allow communication, said method~~ comprising:

a communication control step, of sending a read command to an external device, the read command specifying a memory address where data to be read out are stored;

an acquisition step, of ~~accessing a memory area of the external device via the communication control means and~~ acquiring information about a device that is mountable on the external device from a memory area of the external device by using the read command; and

a display control step, of controlling a display based upon the information acquired in said acquisition step,

wherein the device that is mountable on the external device includes an

attachable part through which the device is attached to the external device, and a function

assit part for assisting a function of the external ~~apparatus~~ device.

Claim 20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently amended) A storage medium storing a control program for

implementing a method of controlling an information processing apparatus, ~~that includes~~

~~communication control means for connecting an external device so as to allow~~

~~communication, and holding means for holding information about a device mountable on~~

~~the information processing apparatus in a memory area that is accessible by the external~~

~~device via the communication control means,~~ the method comprising:

a storage step, of storing information about a device mountable on the

information processing apparatus in a memory area that is accessible by an external device

by using a read command that specifies a memory address where data to be read out is

stored;

a communication control step, of receiving a read command from the

external device; and

a transmission step, of transmitting the information about the device

mountable on the information processing apparatus, held in the memory area, ~~via the~~

~~communication control means~~ in accordance with ~~a request~~ the read command from the

external device ~~via the communication control means~~,

wherein the device mountable on the information processing apparatus

includes an attachable part through which the device is attached to the information

- 7 -

processing apparatus, and a function assist part for assisting a function of the information

processing apparatus.

22. (Currently amended) A storage medium storing a control program for

implementing a method of controlling an information processing apparatus ~~that includes~~

~~communication control means for connecting an external device so as to allow~~

~~communication, the~~ said method comprising:

a communication control step, of sending a read command to an external

device, the read command specifying a memory address where data to be read out are

stored;

an acquisition step, of ~~accessing a memory area of the external device via~~

~~the communication control means~~ and acquiring information about a device that is

mountable on the external device from a memory area of the external device by using the

read command; and

a display control step, of controlling a display based upon the information

acquired in said acquisition step,

wherein the device that is mountable on the external device includes an

attachable part through which the device is attached to the external device, and a function

assist part for assisting a function of the external ~~apparatus~~ device.

Claims 23-41. (Canceled)

42. (New) An information processing apparatus comprising:

- 8 -

memory means for storing information about a device that is mountable on said information processing apparatus but is not mounted on said information processing apparatus; and

communication means for communicating the stored information with an external device.

43.   (New) The apparatus according to Claim 42, wherein the device mountable on said information processing apparatus includes an attachable part through which the device is attached to said information processing apparatus, and a function assist part for assisting a function of said information processing apparatus.

44.   (New) The apparatus according to Claim 42, wherein the memory means stores information about a device which is mountable on said information processing apparatus and has already been mounted on said information processing apparatus.

45.   (New) A method of controlling an information processing apparatus for communicating with an external device, said method comprising:

an acquisition step, of acquiring, from the external device, information about a device that is mountable on the external device but is not mounted on the external device; and

a display control step, of controlling a display based upon the information acquired in said acquisition step.

46.   (New) The method according to Claim 45, wherein the device mountable on the external device includes an attachable part through which the device is attached to the external device, and a function assist part for assisting a function of the external device.

47.   (New) The method according to Claim 45, wherein

said acquisition step includes acquiring information indicative of the device that is mountable on the external device but is not mounted on the external device and a device that is mountable on the external device and has already been mounted on the external device, and

said display control step includes identifiably displaying the device that is mountable on the external device but is not mounted on the external device and the device that is mountable on the external device and has already been mounted on the external device based on the information acquired in said acquisition step.